

Appl. No. 10/631,998
Amdt. Dated April 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2004

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. (USP 5,797,770) in view of Clinton et al. (USP 6,200,161).

Claim 1 claims an electrical connector comprising an insulative housing defining a channel, an inner shell comprising a grounding leg extending into the channel, an outer shell, a plurality of terminals enclosed by the inner shell, and a grounding tab.

Referring to FIG. 1 of Davis et al., an electrical connector as disclosed therein comprises an insulative housing 4, an inner shell 7, an outer shell 6 and a plurality of terminals 2. As stated in the Action, Davis et al. do not show a grounding leg extending into the channel of the insulative housing, and a grounding tab electrically connecting to the grounding leg. Furthermore, Davis et al. also fail to disclose an inner shell enclosing a plurality of terminals, which is not pointed out in the Action.

Neither Davis et al. nor Clinton et al. discloses that a plurality of terminals of the electrical connector are enclosed by the inner shell. The electrical connector disclosed by Davis et al. comprises a pair of plug receiving cavities 3, a partition 11 between the two cavities, and an inner shell 7 partially received in the two cavities 3. The inner shell 7 is arranged between the upper terminals and the lower terminals, and engages with the outer shell. This structure overcomes the bulky disadvantages as disclosed by Davis et al. in the background of the invention section of the specification, thereby achieving a compact construction. Accordingly, the present invention is totally different from Davis et al. Suppose the inner shell of

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Davis et al. was modified to enclose the terminals, a compact construction of the connector would not be achieved, which is contrary to the inventive concept of Davis et al. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or teaching in either Davis et al. or Clinton et al. to combine and modify the two reference teachings to obtain the present invention as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowable.

Consequently, dependent claims 2-12 and 14 should also be allowable since they depend from independent claim 1 directly or indirectly.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. in view of Clinton et al., and further in view of Wu et al. (6,165,015). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 13 claims the electrical connector comprising a rear shell covering a rear face. The invention disclosed by Davis et al. decreases the number of the members to achieve a compact construction. Support the connector disclosed by Davis et al. was added a rear shell, a compact construction of the connector would not be achieved, which is contrary to the inventive concept of Davis et al. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or teaching in Davis et al., Clinton et al. or Wu et al. to combine and modify the reference teachings to obtain the present invention as claimed in claim 13. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable and should be allowable.

Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. in view of Clinton et al.

Similarly, claim 15 also features in an electrical connector comprising a plurality of terminals extending into the inner shell. Clearly, as discussed above, there is no particular prior art reference or their combination disclosing such a

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feature. Therefore, claim 15 is also patentable and should be allowable.

Depend claim 16 should be also allowable since it depends from claim 15.

The newly added claim 17 defines a special assembly which is not found in the cited references.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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